

## **Arlington Animal Services Center Advisory Board**

### **Minutes of February 25, 2004**

The City of Arlington Animal Services Advisory Board held a meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 in the conference room of the Animal Services Center at 5920 West Pioneer Parkway, Arlington TX.

#### **Board Members Attending:**

Lisa Allen	Place 1
Dr. Erin Miller	Place 3
Linda Yarbrough	Place 4
John McDermott	Place 6
Suzanne Berk	Place 7
Mike Bass	Staff

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Jayne Cole	Place 2
Lee Hitchcock	Place 5

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair, Linda Yarbrough, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from meeting dated January 28, 2004**

Minutes approved pending review. Any changes will be submitted by e-mail to Linda Yarbrough and Lisa Allen.

#### **III. Discussion of Agenda Items**

- a. Bond/New Shelter Planning Update – City Council meeting of February 24, 2004 was favorable that in 2 weeks there should be a resolution for the new shelter location. At that Council meeting, Mr. Don Kundiz asked for a cost-based survey to be done. Mike Bass will be looking into a cost breakdown of the new Grand Prairie shelter. The \$300,000 gap in funding is not a fixed amount. Mr. John McDermott wanted to convey to the Council that we would be back, and he feels that it is time for the City to realize that it cannot continue to do things cheaply. While asking for more money, we need to do two things: 1-look at the current service agenda, and 2-look at all options regarding possible locations.
- b. Fund Raising – Suzanne Berk will be leading efforts to raise funds for the new shelter. Joe Bruner is the Executive Sponsor for the fund-raising committee. Pet Rescue will continue to raise money for their needs, but any funds raised specifically for the new shelter will go into a special account. Suzanne mentioned a possible slogan for fundraising is being considered. "PAWS 2005" which stands for Providing Arlington Animals with Shelter will probably be used. Suzanne mentioned that that group to help with getting the word out is creating a special brochure that we need donations! The date for the Softball Tournament to raise funds is March 27.

- c. Shelter conditions/operating budget – The board discussed changes to further improve operating procedures. The Board received a copy of cleaning procedures during last month's meeting in response to concerns raised by Linda Yarbrough at previous meetings. It was noted that operationally, there is not enough staff to do all that is necessary. Linda indicated this is perhaps an indicator of the underlying problem of inadequate operating budget. Staff and Board members are trying to come up with a compassionate plan for the animals and volunteers. The observation was made again that shelter conditions are so poor and because we kill unwanted animals, that it is difficult to recruit volunteers to actually help/work at the shelter. Mike Bass is continuing to work with staff on the operational issues and on a Cleaning Protocol using Los Angeles SOP's and HSUS Euthanasia procedures. Definite needs include additional supplies to raise the bar on the protocol, e.g. disinfecting of brushes (which takes at least 10 min. per brush). Mike Bass will purchase necessary supplies to accomplish this and it includes changing from rags/towels to Heavy Duty disposable towels for cleaning in the Feline area. Mike Bass will also check into the cost of more frequent pick up of euthanized animals and mentioned that one possibility would be to purchase an additional new small freezer to assist during "peak" season.

#### **IV. Announcements**

- a. Pet Rescue Society, Inc. will hold a Softball Tournament (Fundraiser) will on March 27, 2004 and volunteers are needed. Interested individuals should contact Suzanne Berk at 817-572-3220 or Pet Rescue Society, P.O.Box 13976, Arlington, TX 76094.
- b. Anyone who would like to donate money towards the new Animal Shelter can contact Councilman Joe Bruner at 817-633-2332. Checks may also be made out to City of Arlington, marked for 'New Animal Shelter' and mailed to Bruner's attention at 2311 Autumn Oaks Trail, Arlington, TX 76006. The City is tracking all donations received for this effort to ensure they are used as intended.

#### **V. Discussion of Future Meeting Dates and Times**

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at Noon

#### **VI. Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm**